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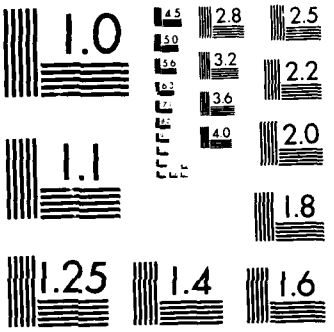
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The storage and retrieval of patterns in a Hopfield-like Parallel Distributed Memory is investigated experimentally with a view toward increasing its storage capacity. The first two Chapters give an overview of distributed memories and in particular the Hopfield distributed memory. This is followed by a Chapter which experimentally identifies the basic storage capacity of the original Hopfield memory when using text patterns.

The dissertation then experimentally investigates new and untested methods to

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20. ABSTRACT CONTINUED

increase the storage capabilities of a Hopfield-like neural net. Increasing the storage capacity by using the continuous-valued Hopfield memory is explored in Chapter 3 and the impact on capacity of data representation is experimentally investigated in Chapter 4. We then focus on new ways of storing data (changing the interconnect strengths) including in Chapter 7 developing a new method called Modifying the Energy Contour or MEC. In addition, this Chapter also outlines how to increase error-tolerance through the use of noisy patterns.

The Hopfield distributed memory is then contrasted to another intelligent memory subsystem based on more of a traditional computer technology. In Chapter 8 we see that traditional computer technology using data-parallel techniques has a greater storage efficiency than possible with current Hopfield-like distributed memories. The design of this data-parallel memory is based in part on what is learned experimentally from the preceding Chapters on the Hopfield-like distributed memory. This fast data-parallel approach also supports retrieval of data patterns with noisy inputs although it does not have all the functionality of the Hopfield-like distributed memory.

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STORING & RETRIEVING DATA IN A PARALLEL DISTRIBUTED MEMORY SYSTEM

BY

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B.S., Math, Kent State University, 1970
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DISSERTATION

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
of Doctor of Philosophy in Advanced Technology
in the Graduate School of the
State University of New York
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ABSTRACT

The storage and retrieval of patterns in a Hopfield-like Parallel Distributed Memory is investigated experimentally with a view toward increasing its storage capacity.

The first two Chapters give an overview of *distributed memories* and in particular the Hopfield distributed memory. This is followed by a Chapter which experimentally identifies the basic storage capacity of the original Hopfield memory when using text patterns.

This *dissertation* then experimentally investigates new and untested methods to increase the storage capabilities of a Hopfield-like neural net. Increasing the storage capacity by using the continuous-valued Hopfield memory is explored in Chapter 3 and the impact on capacity of data representation is experimentally investigated in Chapter 4. We then focus on new ways of storing data (changing the interconnect *strengths*) including in Chapter 7 developing a new method called Modifying the Energy Contour or *MEC*. In addition, this Chapter also outlines how to increase error-tolerance through the use of noisy patterns.

The Hopfield distributed memory is then contrasted to another intelligent memory subsystem based on more of a traditional computer technology. In Chapter 8 we see that traditional computer technology using data-parallel techniques has a greater storage efficiency than possible with current Hopfield-like distributed memories. The design of this data-parallel memory is based in part on what is learned experimentally from the preceding Chapters on the Hopfield-like distributed mem-

ory. This fast data-parallel approach also supports retrieval of data patterns with noisy inputs although it does not have all the functionality of the Hopfield-like distributed memory.

The following three results are the most significant outcomes of this dissertation. Experimentally, it was determined that:

- The Hopfield memory would support new methods for adaptation or learning of patterns and that recall was done by a parallel, nearest-neighbor pattern search procedure.
- The storage capacity of the Hopfield-like memory can be improved but the storage efficiency is far less than data-parallel based associative memories. In addition, experiments show that:
  - the way in which data is represented can greatly impact storage capacity and error-tolerance in Hopfield distributed memories,
  - a single layered fully connected Hopfield-like memory can have more than n stored stable states when using the *Modified Energy Contour* storage process to develop the interconnect *strenghts* (where n is the dimensionality of stored patterns), and
  - when storing 200 randomly generated 96-bit *balanced* coded patterns, 34% of the recall patterns with up to 5% error were still completely correctable when using the *MEC* process and training with noisy patterns.
- A data-parallel implementation of the Nearest-Neighbor Rule provides for fast parallel search of pattern space and can support software-based learning procedures. This implementation can then behave as a Parallel Associative Memory dealing with inexact data in the recall key.

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Contents

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Technology evolution and data retrieval 1

1.2 Data retrieval and error-tolerance 4

1.3 The problem — *storage capacity and error-tolerance* 8

1.4 Distributed memory models 11

1.4.1 Overview 11

1.4.2 Architecture 12

1.4.3 An energy point of view 16

2 The Hopfield two-state nonlinear memory 21

2.1 Overview 21

2.2 Example of storing/retrieving patterns 29

2.3 Treatment as a parallel Nearest-Neighbor Rule 35

3 Performance of the Hopfield memory 41

3.1 The experimental design 41

3.2 Performance of the two-state nonlinear memory 46

3.3 Capacity, speed, and error correction 53

3.4 Performance of the continuous-valued nonlinear memory 58

4 Performance sensitivity to data representation 62

4.1 Data representation/coding 63

4.2 Hamming distance distributions 68

4.3 Storage capacity and error-tolerance 76

4.4 Summary 99

5 Performance using recall pattern knowledge-Clamping 101

5.1 Experimental results 101

6 Performance using *Unlearning* storage methods 105

6.1 How it works. 105

6.2 Results of Unlearning 106

6.3 New extensions to *unlearning* 109

6.4 Rule of thumb - how much to unlearn 110

7 Performance using the new Modified Energy Contour storage rule 112

7.1 Modifying the Energy Contour (*MEC*) — How it works 112

7.2 How MEC relates to *Unlearning—Weighted Unlearning* 117

7.3 How MEC relates to Widrow-Hoff rule 122

7.4 Results of MEC 125

7.5 Summary 130

8 A data-parallel approach to data retrieval and error-tolerance 138

8.1 Nearest-Neighbor Rule 139

8.1.1 Definition 139

8.1.2 Experimental results 140

8.1.3 Theoretical maximum error-tolerance 147

8.2 Design of an intelligent memory subsystem 151

9 Summary and future directions 156

10 Attachment I - *Balanced* Code—used in binary representation of text 174

11 Attachment II - Transition Probability Table used to generate English-like text patterns 175

12 Attachment III - Relation to eigenvalue extraction 178

13 Attachment IV - Measure of closeness 180

14 Attachment V - Bottini's noise-like coding and retrieval 182

14.1 Model structure 182

14.2 Experimental results 185

14.3 Future work required 186

15 Attachment VI—Summary of experimental results 188

Index 193

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